

Concealed Carry in Wisconsin:

2011 Senate Bill 93, commonly known as the "Concealed Carry Law", was signed into law July 8 by Governor Walker as 2011 Wisconsin Act 35. Most of the law's provisions become effective November 1, 2011.

The new law affects virtually every Wisconsin employer, employee and property owner. It is absolutely essential for everyone to understand what the new law means and doesn't mean.

The Department of Justice has provided a "Frequently Asked Questions" document for the public. This document has been posted and is available on the Evansville Police Department web page at the following address:

<http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city/services/police.html>

Scroll down under the heading "News from the Attorney General's office."

You will see "Concealed Carry FAQ."

It is important to note that the new law does not change the fundamental rules regarding the transportation of any firearm in a vehicle, **other than a handgun**. The law remains that firearms other than handguns must be transported in a fully enclosed case and in a fully unloaded state.

Newly created Wis. Stat. 175.60(15m) impacts all employers, both public and private, with respect to the carrying of a concealed weapon, including firearms.

As an example, an employer **may** prohibit the carrying of a concealed weapon (handgun, knife, or taser) in the course of the employee's employment.

In addition to the restrictions noted above, the new law amends Wis. Stat. 948.605(2)(a), which restricts firearms near schools. The amendment eliminates reference to a "school zone" and provides that anyone who knowingly possesses a firearm in or on the grounds of a school is guilty of a Class I felony, and any individual who knowingly possesses a firearm within 1000 feet of the grounds of a school is subject to a Class B forfeiture. There is no exception for parking lots or parking facilities, but the exception for possession in one's home within the restricted area remains.

The decision to obtain a permit (license) and exercise the right to carry a concealed weapon is an individual one, as is an employer's, property owner's or occupant's decision regarding whether and to what extent it will prohibit concealed weapons on its premises.

There is much more to this law and many more questions will surely arise. If anyone has any questions or is unable to view the FAQ document provided by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, please contact the Evansville Police Department at 882-2299.

Resources: Wisconsin Department of Justice; attorneys at Davis & Kuelthau, s.c